

## House Republican Press Release

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### State Firefighters Honor Rep. Fahrbach



#### *Legislator Introduced New Law Limiting Traffic Signal Preemption Devices*

Hartford-The Connecticut State Firefighters Association (CSFA) recently bestowed its 'Legislative Recognition Award' on State Representative Ruth Fahrbach, R-Windsor, in acknowledgement of legislation she introduced that prohibits using a traffic signal preemption device for non-emergency purposes. A traffic signal preemption device is capable of changing a traffic control signal or altering the timing or phasing of the signal. Public Act 05-242 became effective in July 2005.

When activated, a traffic signal preemption device emits a coded frequency to a receiver in the traffic light to either remain green or change to green for the oncoming vehicle. The signal also changes the light to red for all other directions. However, in recent years, these devices have been purchased by non-emergency personnel and such use presents the potential for serious traffic accidents and the ability to delay emergency vehicles from reaching their destinations.

According to the non-partisan Office of Legislative Research (OLR), PA 05-242 specifically prohibits an unauthorized person from possessing a traffic signal preemption device and prohibits the device, with exceptions, from being in or part of an unauthorized motor vehicle. It also prohibits someone from selling or transferring a preemption device except in certain circumstances.

"Good legislation does not just happen," said John McAuliffe, Chair of CSFA's legislative committee. "What usually makes the difference are the efforts of individual legislators. Representative Fahrbach doggedly followed through in her efforts to see this important legislation become law. It would not have been approved without her support."

"This law is a proactive approach to what has the potential to be a serious public safety problem," said Rep. Fahrbach. "We need to ensure that unauthorized persons cannot easily or legally acquire a device that could create havoc on our roads if used improperly. I'm very appreciative of state firefighters' support of the legislation and my efforts."